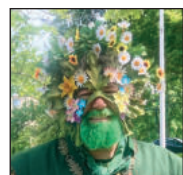




Artful Afternoon,
p.16



Green Man Festival,
p.16

National Police Week

Profile of a Hometown Officer: Officer Roberson, Greenbelter

by Laura Charleston

When the Greenbelt Police Department's Criminal Investigative Unit was awarded a Unit Citation for its work on major violent crime cases (see May 7 issue), Master Police Officer Carl Roberson was among those recognized. It's an honor that, for him, reflects both professional achievement and a personal commitment to the city he has long called home.

Roberson has spent nearly a decade serving the same community where he grew up.

"I'm a Greenbelter," he said. "This is my home. I love Greenbelt."

The unit's work contributed to a broader decline in crime across the city. According to monthly crime reports, the total number of offenses in Greenbelt is down 30 percent compared with the previous year.

For Roberson, however, the job is about more than statistics. His connection to Greenbelt



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

Officer Roberson, who grew up in Greenbelt

runs deep. His family settled in the area after immigrating from Guyana, and he has lived in the city since early childhood. He attended local schools, including Eleanor Roosevelt High School, and still spends much of his time

See **OFFICER**, page 13

Eleanor Roosevelt Wrestling Brings Home State Champs

by Osmel Sosa Chavez

March 7 concluded Eleanor Roosevelt High School's (ERHS) wrestling season in triumphant fashion, as eight tried and failed to halt the title aspirations of ERHS Austin Hayes, a junior, and Leo Foreman, a senior, at 113 and 157 pounds respectively. This marked the first time Eleanor Roosevelt Wrestling would

bring home two male state champions within the same season.

Hayes would add on to the history-making as after defeating Chesapeake's Quin Greenstreet 7-3, he would become the first ever two-time state champion not only from Roosevelt, but from

See **WRESTLING**, page 15



PHOTO COURTESY RAIDER REVIEW

Eleanor Roosevelt students Austin Hayes and Leo Foreman celebrate with their state championship medals.

Election 2026

Eight Candidates for At-Large Seats Share Reasons, Priorities

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Eight Democratic candidates are in the crowded race for two Prince George's County Council at-large seats. Among those running are two current county councilmembers: Jolene Ivey, an incumbent who moved from the District 5 seat to the at-large seat through a special election in 2024 and Sydney Harrison who has represented District 9 for eight years.

The at-large seats have become controversial, some seeing them as a way for councilmembers to sidestep the two-term limit on district seats or as proving grounds for higher office (see article below). A bill introduced by Councilmember Tom Dernoga may see the question of the seats' abolition placed on the ballot this year, but would not take effect until 2030, after those elected this

year serve a full four-year term.

The Greenbelt News Review reached out to all eight candidates and asked them why they are running to be an at-large councilmember and to share two important issues an at-large member should address. Given the recent resignations and appointments on council, as well as

See **CANDIDATES**, page 8



Sean Floyd



Laura Gilchrest



Jolene Ivey



Jeana Jacobs



Keith Washington



Noah Waters



Sydney Harrison



Jennifer Rios

PHOTOS COURTESY THE CANDIDATES

Election 2026

At-Large Candidates and the Seats Themselves Could Be on Ballot

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Greenbelters can expect to see eight Democratic candidates for two at-large county council seats on their ballot in June, and, in November, the elimination of those seats for 2030 could also be a question on the ballot.

The two at-large seats have been with the council for less than a decade, though when the council was created in 1970 all

seats were at-large. That changed with a ballot referendum in 1980, when councilmembers each began to represent a district. In 2016, the charter amendment to re-introduce at-large positions put the question as follows: "To provide for the election of council members by district and at large, to change the composition of the County Council to a system of nine district members and two at large members, and to provide that a Council member who has been elected to two consecutive terms of office as a district member shall not serve more than two consecutive terms as an at-large member." Two-thirds of voters were in favor and the seats were introduced in 2018.

Those in favor saw the seats as an opportunity for more representation for county residents and for councilmembers whose interests would include the entire county rather than being limited to the parochial interests of a district.

Those opposed argued it was a way to circumvent term limits and advance political aspirations.

The ability of the seats to bypass term limits was immediately evident. Mel Franklin was one of the councilmembers to support at-large seats and the expanded council in 2016. In 2018, at the completion of his second term representing District 9, where he was term-limited to two four-year terms, he then became one of the first two at-large councilmembers. Calvin S. Hawkins II, who had not previously served on the council, won the other seat.

Over recent months, the use of the seats for political advancement has drawn increasing scrutiny. A successful bid for an at-large seat might be proof of ability to win at the county level and also increase name recognition. Both current at-large county councilmembers - Jolene Ivey and Wala Blegay - moved to their

See **SEATS**, page 12

What Goes On

Monday, May 18
7 p.m., City Council Budget Worksession: Final Budget Review, Municipal Building
Thursday, May 21
7 p.m., Four Cities Meeting, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltnmd.gov for more information.

Letters to the Editor

Little League Coverage

I want to express how happy I was to see some coverage in the Greenbelt News Review of local Little League games. I've been attending numerous Greenbelt youth sporting events for years and always thought it odd and somewhat discouraging that the local paper did not feature these events and support the local youth participation.

In addition to baseball, Greenbelt has teams I've watched in soccer, track and basketball, yet even when these teams have won notable medals and trophies, there has been no affirmation of the young people's achievements. I hope to see more coverage as encouragement that the commu-

nity supports the young people's achievements in the future.

Barbara Hammonds

Editor's Note: We appreciate the baseball information submitted by Ben Friedman printed on page 15 and in the May 7 issue, as well as photographs submitted by others. We encourage Greenbelters to submit articles, schedules, photographs and awards for youth sports teams.

Grateful for Support

A big thank you to the kind young women who helped me after my hard fall Saturday near the Green Man Festival.

And my husband John too. X-rays showed no break and my big bruises are healing well.

Jane Young



Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

The Sheep Detectives

In this witty, new breed of mystery, George (Hugh Jackman) is a shepherd who reads detective novels to his beloved sheep every night, assuming they can't possibly understand. But when a mysterious incident disrupts life on the farm, the sheep realize they must become the detectives. As they follow the clues and investigate human suspects, they prove that even sheep can be brilliant crime-solvers.

Steal This Story, Please!

Undeterred by armed soldiers, evasive politicians and riot police, Amy Goodman has reported some of the most consequential stories of our time. This documentary is a gripping account of the trailblazing journalist whose unwavering commitment to truth-telling spans three decades of turbulent history. From the frontlines of global conflicts to the organized chaos of her daily news show Democracy Now!, Goodman amplifies stories and voices too often silenced by commercial media. Academy Award-nominated filmmakers Carl Deal and Tia Lessin (Trouble the Water, Citizen Koch, The Janes) take us behind the scenes with the warm, wisecracking granddaughter of an Orthodox rabbi – raised in a tradition of asking hard questions – as she navigates a media landscape reshaped by technology, corporate consolidation and political assaults on the press and on truth itself. Urgent, provocative and unexpectedly funny, the film is both a call to action and a celebration of resistance, posing the question: what happens to democracy when the press stops challenging power?

Amrum

This film is a tender coming-of-age tale about the loss of innocence in the waning days of WWII. It is the spring of 1945 on the German island of Amrum, where 12-year-old Nanning spends his days working the farm and his nights fishing. Despite the hardship, life on the windswept isle seems idyllic. When farmer Tessa (Diane Kruger) mentions to Nanning that the war will soon be over, the boy – too young to understand the political implications – is pleased to imagine that his Nazi officer father might soon be coming home. But word of Germany's imminent defeat sends his mother into decline, and as Nanning looks to his community for support, he learns that the true enemy is far closer than he imagined.

Pather Panchali

Impoverished priest Harihar Ray, dreaming of a better life for himself and his family, leaves his rural Bengal village in search of work. Alone, his wife, Sarbojaya, looks after her rebellious daughter, Durga, and her young son, Apu, as well as Harihar's elderly aunt Indir. The children enjoy the small pleasures of their difficult life, while their parents suffer the daily indignities heaped upon them.

Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is.
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com

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Visually impaired may listen for free
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Greenbelt Cinema
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www.greenbeltcinema.org
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Member kids are always FREE!
After 5 PM: adults \$10, kids \$7, senior/student/military \$9
Before 5 PM:
general admission \$8, kids \$6
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
MAY 15th - 21st

The Sheep Detectives (PG) (CC) (DVS) (2026) (110 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:00 PM, 7:45 PM
Sat. 8:00 PM
Sun. 5:20 PM
Mon. 5:00 PM
Wed. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 7:15 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 5:15 PM
Mon. 2:15 PM
Tue. 6:15 PM

Steal This Story, Please! (NR) (CC) (DVS) (2025) (98 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 2:45 PM (OC)
Tue. 3:30 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:15 PM
Sat. 8:15 PM
Mon. 5:15 PM
Wed. 5:00 PM
Thurs. 7:30 PM

Amrum
(NR) (2025) (93 mins)
German with English subtitles
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 5:30 PM
Mon. 2:30 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 8:00 PM
Sun. 2:30 PM
Tue. 3:45 PM
Wed. 7:30 PM
Thurs. 5:00 PM

Pather Panchali
(NR) (1955) (122 mins)
Film in Focus - Event Pricing
Bengali with English subtitles
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sun. 5:00 PM

Storytime on Screen - Free!
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM

Seven Wonders of Greenbelt

(ACCORDING TO PETE)

#5 Mother And Child Statue

A cautionary tale not to give energy drinks to young children.

- Cartoon by Pete Reppert

Story & Photograph Submissions

We welcome your stories and photographs about all things Greenbelt. While publication is not guaranteed, your submissions help us cover more of what goes on. Stories will be copyedited. Remember to include captions and identify people in photographs. See the information box on this page for publication deadlines and how to submit materials.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:
- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 5 p.m. Co-op dropbox: Classified ads with payment only.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Community Events

At the Library

Note that a delayed opening is scheduled for Thursday, May 14 at 2 p.m. Greenbelt Library’s regular hours are Mondays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, call the Library, 301-345-5800; for Spanish, call Biblio Consulta, 301-358-6862.

Storytimes

Friday, May 15, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16130235.

Wednesday, May 20, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16120466.

Thursday, May 21, 10:15 a.m., newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16130193.

Passport Acceptance Event

Saturday, May 16, 10:30 a.m., all ages. In collaboration with the Office of U.S. Senator Angela D. Alsobrooks and the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), the U.S. Department of State will directly accept passport applications on site at the Greenbelt Library. This special event is by appointment only and is separate from the regular passport acceptance service provided at the library. Visit pgcmls.info/event/16408970 for detailed information and the registration link.

Storytime on Screen

Monday, May 18, 10:30 a.m., ages 1 to 5, at the Greenbelt Cinema. Greenbelt Cinema and PGCMLS are offering a free program of stories, songs and a short film. This program is best suited for children ages 1 to 5 and their caregivers. No unaccompanied children or adults. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16120794.

Build with Legos

Monday, May 18, 4 p.m., ages 5 to 12. Build, create and explore with Legos. With plenty of pieces and endless possibilities, kids can let their imaginations take the lead in this freestyle building session. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16060874.

STEM Fun

Tuesday, May 19, 4:30 p.m. ages 5 to 12. Dive into the world of science, technology, engineering and math with fun, hands-on experiments and activities. Explore early math concepts, like addition, subtraction and patterns through interactive games that spark curiosity and creativity. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16123554.

Greenbelt Chess Club Learn & Play Event

The Greenbelt Chess Club will host its free annual Community Chess Learn & Play Event on Saturday, May 16, at Roosevelt Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All ages and skill levels are welcome. For questions, contact Effie Levner at 443-415-1053 or greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com. To be added to the group’s mailing list, visit tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m and complete the brief form.

Grow with Goddard Features the Planets

This program will include activities and demonstrations for ages 3 to 5 on Thursday, May 21 from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Goddard Visitor Center, during a special morning hour before it opens to the public. Registration is required for each child participant and at least one parent or guardian must be on site for the program. Register at eventbrite.com/cc/nasa-goddard-visitor-center-3091729. The Visitor Center is at 9432 Greenbelt Road.



NASA and NOAA Weather Satellites Partnership

This month’s Mission: Experiment, a free, family-friendly event, will be held on Saturday, May 16 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Goddard Visitor Center. The program, NOAA’s LEO Weather Satellites: From Launches to Forecasts, showcases NASA’s partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to build and launch weather satellites that fuel three- to five-day weather forecasts. Participants will engage with hands-on activities to learn about NOAA’s current and future Low Earth Orbit (LEO) weather satellites, including the large Joint Polar Satellite System and the small, experimental QuickSounder satellite expected to launch within a year. The Visitor Center is at 9432 Greenbelt Road.

Ride and Read At the Library

Thursday, May 21, 11 a.m., ages 16+. Sign up for an hour ride on a stationary bike with free apps from PGCMLS like Libby, Kanopy and Hoopla to enjoy while working out. Participants must be 16 or older, sign a waiver before beginning to ride and be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16137216.

Mental Health Awareness Month Wellness Walk

On Saturday, May 23 from 9 a.m. to noon, join Greenbelt Police Department at Buddy Attick Park for a friendly walk dedicated to raising awareness and showing support for those in the community who need it most. Everyone is welcome.

Bring a friend, meet new people, enjoy the outdoors, share resources and support mental well-being together.

Campfires, Hikes At Greenbelt Park

The National Park Service is offering weekly campfire programs at the Loop B Campfire Circle.

On Fridays at 7:30 p.m., the program is Welcome to Washington.

On Saturdays at 8 p.m., there is programming alternating between nature and history topics to coincide with the nation’s 250th anniversary. The programs for May are: May 16, Drum Circle; May 23, The History of Memorial Day; and May 30, The One Man Irish Band.

On Sundays at 1 p.m., Hike with a Ranger meets at the Dogwood Trail parking lot. The ranger leads a nature hike focused on the flora and fauna of Greenbelt Park in a beautiful and picturesque setting.

Greenbelt Park is open every day from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The Ranger Station is open from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. The campground is open 24 hours a day, year-round, for registered campers and their guests.

Visit nps.gov/gree/planyourvisit/calendar.htm for more information.

Chess Club Meets Tuesday

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesday, May 19 at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:50 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to the mailing list, complete the brief form at tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m. Direct questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

Repair Café Saturday

The next free Greenbelt MakerSpace Repair Café is on Saturday, May 16 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Granite Building, 115 Centerway. The Repair Café will be held on the third Saturday each month. Come learn how to repair tired or broken stuff or help repair others’ items (experienced and novice volunteers needed). Bring clothing, bicycles, furniture, appliances, computers, jewelry, toys, etc. for the challenge of making them useful again. See tools.greenbeltmakers.org for more information.

Borrow tools and other things at the Tool Library on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Vegan Pot Luck Dinner And Condiment Making

Delicious plant-based condiments can be simple and inexpensive to make. Join the group at the Community Center Dining Room on Wednesday, May 20, 6 to 8 p.m. Anyone willing to help set up in the kitchen should come at 5:30.

Bring a favorite plant-based dish to share, like veggies, whole grains, legumes or fruit (no animal products). Meet neighbors, have some yummy food and try something new. The program is free, but donations are accepted. Scan the QR code to register.



Scan to register

GAIL to Celebrate 25th Anniversary

Celebrate the 25th anniversary of Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program on Monday, May 18, at the Community Center Ground Floor East. Meet the lead character and author of the movie Give Your Parents a Standing Ovation. RSVP to Cesar Herrera at 240-241-0037 by Monday, May 11.

Community Center Hosts Blood Drive June 5

As summer approaches, the Red Cross is bracing for an annual seasonal shortage of blood, as regular donors go on vacation and miss blood drives. This shortage can affect lifesaving treatment at area hospitals. The Red Cross will host a blood drive at the Community Center on Friday, June 5, with appointments available from 12:15 to 4:45 p.m.

Donors of all blood types – especially type O – are urged to make an appointment to give now to help meet the needs of patients. Visit redcross.org to make an appointment; walk-ins can probably not be accommodated.

The Greenbelt American Legion Post also hosts a blood drive every other month, with the next one scheduled for Monday, July 6.

The American Red Cross operates a Lanham Blood Donation Center, only three miles from Greenbelt on Annapolis Road. The Center is open Sundays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Mondays and Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Golden Age Club

The Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center.

Note that annual dues must be paid to receive the club’s weekly newsletter.

The following is the schedule for the remainder of May:

May 20 – Birthday luncheon. Bring a dish to share. May birthday celebrants should be ready to tell their stories.
May 27 – Bingo.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.



Featured Programming on

Greenbelt Access Television

May 2026

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast Channel 77 • Streaming Online at GreenbeltAccessTV.org

Featured Productions

New, daily episodes of Democracy Now

Coverage of local events, performances and productions

All-new creations from Mister Geo’s Homeschool Digital Animation Class

All this and more on our cable channels, online streaming, and YouTube channel. As always, thank you for tuning in!



This Week at the New Deal Café

Celebrating 30 Years in Greenbelt! Try Our New Menu & Drinks!

BECOME A MEMBER!*



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113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

Monday, 9am-9pm; Tuesday—Thursday, 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am – 12midnight; Sunday, 9am – 9pm

REMEMBER TO TIP OUR PERFORMERS - IT’S THE ONLY WAY THEY’RE PAID!

*** RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642 ***

TH 5/14	FRI 5/15	SAT 5/16	SUN 5/17	
Isn’t That So? 7 - 9pm A talented collection of DC-area musicians who enjoy mining a mix of Americana	49 Cent Dress 8 - 11pm A tasty mix of rock & roll with a dash of blues and soul.	POETRY OPEN MIC, 11a-1p HOLDING FOR KENNY (Ticketed event) DETAILS TBD	Grateful Sunday with Purple 6 - 8pm Celebrating the music of the Grateful Dead	
MON 5/18	TUES 5/19	WED 5/20	TH 5/21	New Deal Cafe
REEL AND MEAL AT THE NDC 7 - 9:30pm A monthly film series exploring social issues	NDC Open Mic w/ Joey Campfire 6 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6pm; Open Mic starts at 6:30p	PUB QUIZ 7 - 9pm Bring your own team or form one on the spot! Test Your Knowledge	Classic Jam with The Low Rent Quartet 6:30 - 9:30pm Leans towards the blues, but other styles are welcome	RENEW OR BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NDC! See link below* THANK YOU!

*Join NDC! Go to [NewDealCafe\(dot\)com](https://NewDealCafe(dot)com), click on “ABOUT”, then “BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW.”

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

Obituaries

Martha Folk



PHOTO BY ERIKA FREEMAN

Martha Tompkins Folk

Martha Tompkins Folk, 79, of Lanham died on April 29, 2026. Born in Greenbelt on February 18, 1947, Martha was the daughter of the late Alberta and Tommy Tompkins. She grew up in Old Greenbelt alongside her twin sister, Alice. Her childhood was filled with Girl Scouts, singing in the St. Cecilia Choir at Greenbelt Community Church and visiting family in Ann Arbor, Mich., and on Maryland's Eastern Shore. She developed a lifelong love for the great outdoors during family trips to national parks, a passion that would define much of her life.

Martha graduated from High Point High School, Class of 1965, and continued her education at the University of Maryland, where she earned a degree in education and a Master of Science in library science. She dedicated over 30 years to her career as a librarian with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System. She took great joy in helping patrons find information and leading engaging book discussions until her retirement in 2003.

A woman with a profound love for music, Martha was a lifelong member of the Greenbelt Community Church Choir. It was there that she met her husband, Larry. They were married on October 23, 1975, and shared countless outdoor adventures. Some of their fondest memories included climbing Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park, hiking to Phantom Ranch in the Grand Canyon, camping in Shenandoah National Park and exploring the Blue Ridge Parkway.

In 1980, Martha and Larry welcomed their only child, Erika. Martha delighted in being a mother, and the family continued the tradition of summer adventures, often traveling to the Pacific Northwest to visit Martha's sister, Alice. These memorable trips took them through Glacier National Park, the Canadian Rockies and Alaska.

Martha's love of music led her to a long tenure as a second soprano with The National Christian Choir. She enjoyed singing all over the country, with highlights including a choir trip to Israel and performing at the Crystal Cathedral in California.

Martha's generosity of spirit led her to serve as a longtime coordinator of the Church World Service CROP Hunger Walk fundraiser at Greenbelt Community Church. For several years, she led the organization of the Hyattsville CROP Hunger Walk, bringing together organizations across the county to raise funds to provide meals for those in our own community who need them - and supporting programs that create

greater food security all around the world.

Martha deeply cherished her church family at Greenbelt Community Church, where she forged lifelong friendships. She found immense joy in every aspect of fellowship, from sharing Agape meals during Lent and gathering for Sunday worship, to weekly choir practices and singing with the Greenbelt Combined Choir during the holiday season.

Martha was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Lawrence (Larry) Folk of Dayton, Ohio. She is survived by her sister, Alice T. McGregor and her family of Seattle, Wash.; her daughter, Erika F. Freeman and son-in-law David Freeman of Silver Spring; and her two cherished grandchildren, Bailey and Ash.

Martha will be keenly missed by all who knew her. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at Greenbelt Community Church on Friday, June 5 at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Martha's memory to Church World Service CROP Walk.

Happy Birthday, John Henry



PHOTO BY DORY IOLITO

John Henry Jones celebrates his 98th birthday along with his daughter Corita Waters.



Our condolences to the family and friends of Martha Tompkins Folk who died April 29. She was born and raised in the 4 Court of Hillside Road. Among her many community activities, she was a lifelong member of the Greenbelt Community Church choir.

Congratulations to the Eleanor Roosevelt High School MESA students for their first-place win in the state National Engineering Design Competition.

We hope Greenbelt Little League, celebrating its 75th year, is enjoying the improvements to Braden Field.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Crisis Hotline's Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is 988. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.

A bee is busy on a flower.

PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero
Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Let's party! Celebrations from the Bible.

GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH
One Hillside Road
Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

Rev. Aubra Love, Senior Pastor

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ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT

Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Community Center Room 114
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cathcomgreenbelt.org
ALL ARE WELCOME!

A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
[CCGI985-owner@groups.io](https://ccgi985-owner@groups.io)

"For mothers are the first educators, the first mentors; and truly it is the mothers who determine the happiness, the future greatness, the courteous ways and learning and judgement, the understanding and the faith of their little ones."
— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for Worship & Sunday School at 10:00 AM

Mishkan Torah Congregation
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Yael Fischman

A welcoming, inclusive, and friendly synagogue offers something for everyone: young, old, single, married, and both Jewish and interfaith families.

Services at 8:00pm Friday and 9:45am Saturday in person and on Zoom

For more information, visit MishkanTorah.org or call 301-474-4223
A Dual-Affiliated Reconstructionist and Conservative congregation
10 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

May 17, 2026, at 3 p.m.
A Bouquet of People
Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Jacqui Walpole

In the spirit of our May theme (Wow), we'll share a service centered in our UU faith's 103-year-old ritual of Flower Communion. All are welcome to bring any flower of their choosing to be shared in community.

Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

FY2027 Budget Work Sessions at a Glance

OVERVIEW FROM THE MAY 6 BUDGET WORK SESSION

Budget Work Session - Recognition Groups I

This work session focused on reviewing budget requests from local organizations through the recognition group program. Council heard presentations from eight organizations seeking funding, including:

- Greenbelt Soccer Alliance
- Municipal Swim Team
- CHEARS
- Greenbelt Farmers Market
- Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club
- Greenbelt Youth Baseball
- Babe Ruth Baseball
- Greenbelt Business Alliance

Greg Varda, Director of Recreation, explained the funding process and budget adjustments made to balance the \$122,200 available budget with the \$199,307 in requested funding. Each organization presented updates on their programs, including new initiatives, challenges, and how funding would be used. Council discussed specific details about participant numbers, field conditions, and partnership opportunities while asking clarifying questions about budget variances and organizational needs.

For more information visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/budget.

MEETINGS FOR MAY 18 - 22

Monday, May 18 at 7 pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION - FINAL BUDGET REVIEW - Council Chambers**

Tuesday, May 19 at 7 pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION - Municipal Buidling**, *On the Agenda: Town Hall planning, Report writing, and Editor Scope of Work*

Wednesday, May 20 at 7 pm, **ACE STUDENT AWARDS - Municipal Buidling**

Wednesday, May 20 at 7:30 pm, **PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD - Municipal Buidling**, *On the Agenda: TBD*

Thursday, May 21 at 7 pm, **FOUR CITIES COALITION (GREENBELT) - Municipal Buidling**

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

OFFICIAL NOTICE - PUBLIC HEARING

The Greenbelt City Council has scheduled a public hearing to be held during the Regular Meeting of Council **Monday, June 8, 2026 at 7:30 pm**

Concerning the Charter Amendment Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt to Amend §3-22 "Powers" of the City Charter to Authorize the City of Greenbelt to Engage in Collective Bargaining with Certain Eligible, Non-Exempt, Non-Managerial, and Non-Confidential City Employees as Provided in Article VIII of Chapter 13 of the City Code.

The Public Hearing will be held in person at the Municipal Building and virtually via Zoom. Public attendance and participation are encouraged.

All residents of Greenbelt will have a reasonable opportunity to provide written and oral comments and ask questions concerning the proposed charter amendment.

The proposed charter amendment is enclosed on Regular Council Meeting June 8, 2026, agenda packet posted on the City Web site at <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov>. For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

- Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

FEATURED PETS

Blu



Ready for Adoption?

Call (301) 474-6124

7-month-old Blu was recently surrendered to the shelter when his owner could no longer care for him. While Blu initially had some nerves adjusting to the shelter, he has become a sweet love bug full of puppy kisses and zoomies. When he's not smothering you in affection, Blu loves to play with tennis balls and go on walks. He does great on the leash and is non-reactive – he just wants to say hi to everyone he sees (plus, his former owner said he really loves other dogs). Blu is also picking up very fast on training and has already mastered "sit".

If you're interested in adopting bright-eyed Blu, please reach out to us at animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov or call us at (301) 474-6124.

A majority (or quorum) of Greenbelt City Council members may attend community organization meetings, but no official Council action will be taken at these meetings. Please note that meeting locations may change after being published. For information on how to join these meetings, contact the respective organization directly.

FY2027 Budget Work Session Schedule

The Greenbelt City Council will hold a series of work sessions throughout April and May to review and discuss the FY2027 Proposed Budget with City staff. Community members are encouraged to tune in or attend to learn more about upcoming plans and priorities for our city.

Join us in person at 25 Crescent Road, or virtually via YouTube, the Greenbelt website at www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV livestream, Zoom, or on Verizon and Comcast cable channels.

View the full schedule of upcoming work session dates below:

- (May 13) Budget Work Session - Recognition Groups (Group 2)
- (May 18) Budget Work Session - Final Budget Review
- (May 26) Budget Adoption

BIKE TO WORK DAY 2026

Friday, May 15, 6:30 - 8:30 am

Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center parking lot

Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association invites you to join over 15,000 area commuters for a celebration of bicycling as a fun, eco-friendly, low-cost commuting option and it provides both physical and mental health benefits. The Greenbelt Pit Stop will be one of 100+ Pit stops in the regional area. To make sure even those working from home can participate, we are encouraging telecommuting registrants to bike to their pit stop and then cycle back home to start the workday.

Register at biketoworkmetrodc.org; Pit Stop Manager: Patrick Mullen, 240-542-2188.

UPCOMING NATURE EVENTS

Birding 101

Saturday, May 16 from 7:30 - 9:30 am

Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Rd



Have you ever wanted to try birding but don't know where to begin? Join environmental coordinator, Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll, and the Greenbelt Park Rangers for an introductory tour around Greenbelt Lake. We will go over keys to bird identification, choosing and using binoculars, as well as using different mobile apps in the field.



Walk with a Ranger

Saturday, May 16 from 10 - 11 am

Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Rd

Enjoy a morning stroll around Greenbelt Lake along with the Greenbelt Park Rangers. A great opportunity to ask that question about nature, history, or more to which you've always wanted an answer. Meet at the main entrance under "The Big Tree". No registration required.

Kayaking at Buddy Attick Park

Saturday, May 23 from 8 - 11:30 am

Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Rd



Join Greenbelt Park Rangers and explore Greenbelt Lake by Kayak. Kayaks, vests, and paddles are provided at no cost, but supplies are limited. Reservations for kayaks are limited to participants 16 and up. Each session has 10 slots available to reserve. Participants are welcome to bring their own watercraft, vests, and paddles.



City of Greenbelt Job Fair

Saturday, May 16, 12 - 2 pm

Beltway Plaza, 6000 Greenbelt Road

Join us for our annual Greenbelt Job Fair! Learn about the latest job opportunities, connect with local employers, and get access to a variety of employment resources and training.

Contact Deji Ayoku for more information or to register your business for the Job Fair at dayoku@greenbeltmd.gov or (202) 740-6473.

GREENBELT CARES PROGRAMS

MEMORY CAFE: A COLLAGE OF SOUND

May 20 at 1: 30 pm - Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East

Discover the power of sound in this musical workshop. Layer together music, rhythm, singing, and humming to create a collage of sounds that reflect the world around us. With community partner Arts for the Aging. Teaching artist Chris Brown uses improvisational bass and percussion to explore how creating music in community affects the mind and body. Contact Natalie Garcia at ngarcia@greenbeltmd.gov or (240) 244-6010.

STRONGER EVERY YEAR: A HEALTHY AGING AND PREVENTION FAIR

Thursday, May 28, 1 - 4 pm

Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East

This engaging event will offer a variety of wellness-focused activities and resources, including memory and health screenings, reflexology, journaling for stronger memories, and essential oils. Designed to support healthy aging, the fair provides an opportunity for community members to learn, connect, and prioritize their well-being in a welcoming environment. Register with Cesar Herrera: 240-241-0037

HOME SAFETY CHECKUPS

Mondays June 15, July 20 and August 17 from 10 am to 2 pm

Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East

The City of Greenbelt's GAIL Program is hosting Home Safety Checkups for adults ages 60 and over at the Greenbelt Community Center on June 15, July 20, and August 17 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Participants can receive a self-guided home safety assessment, fall prevention tips, and information on resources and services to help make their home safer for aging in place.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.



* VOLUNTEER * VACANCIES * APPLY FOR A COMMITTEE OR BOARD TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Appeals, Community Relations Advisory Board, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, or Youth Advisory Committee and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts for more information and many other opportunities!

Sign up for ARTFANS, a weekly e-newsletter, at www.greenbeltmd.gov/list.aspx

Free Artist Talk with Tinam

Valk 5/15; 6-7pm. RSVP at sugeni.us/e8Sq. Meet the artist currently featured in the Greenbelt Community Center Art Gallery. Family photos and dreamscapes are interwoven in Valk's lush mixed media paintings. (Artists: bring your work and stay for an Art Share at 7pm!)

Fused Glass Wall Hanging

or Dish 5/25; 11am-1pm (Greenbelt Community Center). Register for section 1 to make one six-inch piece or for both sections to make two pieces. Registration required: see page 24 of the spring activity guide for details - www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

- June Artful Afternoons** 6/7, 1-3pm (Greenbelt Community Center). 6/14,1:30-2:30pm (Springhill Lake Recreation Center). Sign up here: sugeni.us/etqV. FREE!

Registration required for the following activities, see www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide for details.

- Pet Portrait Painting** 5/17-5/24; 1-3pm (Greenbelt Community Center) page 25.
- Friends & Family Workshop: Microquilting** 6/5; 5:30-7:30pm (Greenbelt Community Center) page 13.

TEEN TALK: IT'S NOT EASY BEING A TEEN! Date TBD

If you are 13 to 17 years old and live in Greenbelt, we want to hear from you and learn what issues our teens are dealing with!

We're providing a \$50 gift card and pizza and drinks for actively participating in a 2 hour in-person session that includes using their phone to provide input and answer questions.

Use the QR code below to register:



For more information, contact ACAPS Chair Peggy Higgins at (240) 375-0388 or higgins20770@aol.com

Brought to you by the City of Greenbelt Advisory Committee Advancing Public Safety



CITY OF
COLLEGE PARK



SPRING STREET FAIR 2026



MAY 17 12-4PM

DAVIS HALL

9217 51st AVE.
COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740



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PETTING ZOO

collegeparkmd.gov/springfair

Arts & Entertainment

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

The Koto Concert Delights At the Greenbelt Library

by Lois Rosado



Colin Khem and Professor Yuriko Gandolfo play the koto, an instrument similar to a zither.

On Wednesday, May 6, the Greenbelt Library presented a soothing and informative koto session in their large conference room in honor of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Those in attendance were treated to a delightful concert by Colin Khem, who works for the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System, and Professor Yuriko Gandolfo from the University of Maryland. The koto players presented both instrumental and vocal examples of the musical genre.

Although koto is the national instrument of Japan, the Chinese introduced it there in the 7th and 8th centuries. Koto was played by the upper classes and gradually became popular among the Japanese people.

Koto is considered a zither instrument. It is composed of Paulownia wood and most have 13 strings strung over movable bridges that alter the tuning and tone of the songs played. There are koto instruments that have up to 21 strings. Those with 17 to 18 strings are used as a bass instrument. Gandolfo explained that

as the dragon is a sacred animal in Japan, the front of the koto is called the dragon’s horn, the crown is the dragon’s head and the end is called a tail. Originally, the strings were made of silk and some of the more expensive instruments still use it; however, most koto are made with plastic string. The bridges that serve as tuners were once made of ivory but now are also made of plastic. There are two sound holes on the bottom. The koto is plucked with three finger picks called Tsume that are placed on the first three fingers of the right hand.

The next concert of koto will be held at the New Carrollton Library on May 30 at 2 p.m. It is worth attending – it is free and relaxing and experiencing other cultures enables one to expand one’s knowledge and appreciation of the people of our world.

Artist Talk With Tinam Valk

Visit the current exhibition at the Community Center Art Gallery, where family stories meet dreamscapes in Tinam Valk’s mixed media compositions. The Gallery is open daily: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The show is on view through June 10.

RSVP for a free artist’s talk with Valk on Friday, May 15 at 6 p.m. at sugeni.us/e8So. Directly following the talk, community artists can gather for an Art Share, part of a series of monthly meet-ups. Sign up for the Art Share at sugeni.us/ekEO. For more information about Greenbelt arts programs, visit greenbelt.gov/arts. Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

A Review

Sitcom and Movie Stars Shine In Rudes’ Adaptation of Salome

by Melissa Sites

The Rude Mechanicals have a long – quarter century! – history of defying expectations in their productions of classic theater. Their current production of *Salome*, directed by Wes Dennis at Greenbelt Arts Center, is built around the gooey center of a play by Oscar Wilde, presented chock-full of references and quotations as a 1990s sitcom or an off-the-rails game of Mario Kart.

Originally written in French, *Salome* was translated into English by Lord Alfred Douglas, Wilde’s lover. According to a rule in England at the time, biblical characters could not be portrayed on stage, so Wilde never saw it performed, but it was staged twice in France in 1896 while he was imprisoned.

Herod the Tetrarch (De’Maryo Platt) is obsessed with *Salome* (Celia Richardson), his wife Herodias’ beautiful daughter, and wishes her to dance for him, while *Salome* is obsessed by the wild prophet, Jokanaan (Dylan Nicholson), who is imprisoned in the palace cistern. *Salome* wins the head of Jokanaan, horribly kisses it, and is killed by Herod’s guards.

The show contains comedic violence, suicide and murder; while the original story is tragic and Wilde’s play is infused with poetic symbolism, this production preserves *Salome*’s insane intensity. As *Salome*, Richardson is dressed in yellow plaid as the main character from the 1995



The Rude Mechanicals present *Salome* at Greenbelt Arts Center.

movie *Clueless*. Scary in her fanatical desire for Jokanaan, *Salome* is spoiled, rich and is used to getting what she wants. While she refuses Herod’s requests that she dance, she finally gives in when she realizes she can claim Jokanaan’s head on a platter as her reward.

The Rudes’ boldest move is portraying Jokanaan as Steve Urkel from the sitcom *Family Matters*. Nicholson manages to perform the entire play in Urkel’s annoying nasalized accent, giving credence to Herodias’ complaints that she cannot stand to hear him. Herodias herself (Darcella Owens) is dressed as Peg Bundy from *Married ... with Children* and Herod is dressed as a 90s celebrity with an entourage and a gold track suit, displaying a captivating combination of cravenness and charisma.

The show opens with Buzz Lightyear (Becca Korn) and loyal friend Woody (Maya Catoe) as palace attendants. Buzz admires *Salome* and repeats many corny lines about her beauty, comparing her to the moon. The repeated lines – some of which come from Wilde’s play while some seem made up for this show – set the

stage for what is to come as Jokanaan emerges from his cistern periodically to quote lyrics from 90s songs or issue catch phrases.

While Wilde’s play was not often produced, it was adapted into a one-act opera by Richard Strauss and famously illustrated by Aubrey Beardsley. In these adaptations the play made its way into popular consciousness. This reviewer remembers a 1980s graphic novel adaptation of the opera by comic book illustrator P. Craig Russell that edited and preserved exquisite nuggets of text from Wilde’s play in an elaborate game of Telephone. In this production by the Rudes, the play is likewise preserved. The wavering weakness of Herod, the obsession of *Salome*, the weird proclamations of the otherworldly Jokanaan – and the ripples of these characters’ actions onto those around them – still carry through even while the play is set to rollicking 90s references that audience members are invited to check off a list.

Salome will run through May 16. Buy tickets at greenbeltartscenter.org.

City Notes

Public Safety/Community reviewed stop-sign camera results: 400 infractions recorded on day one. Constituent Services attended the Maryland Office of Immigrant Affairs statewide call. Human Resources began background checks on new-hire camp staff and Finance discussed Greenbelt’s tax billing rate with the county.

Code Enforcement inspected four commercial suites and 28 rentals and issued 10 permits. Animal Shelter residents are seven cats, eight kittens and four dogs after one cat adoption.

Public Works delivered outdoor furnishings for Green Man, plant sale and Artful Afternoon events. Horticulture began planting spring flowers. Streets removed banners for Berwyn Heights and Mechanics checked in a new loader.

Arts provided activities for CARES’ Literacy Fair at Springhill Lake Recreation Center and Therapeutic Recreation hosted a senior museum trip.

In April, CARES counseled 205 clients (including 61 minors), tutored 22 students, taught 13 ESOL and 17 GED students and coached six job seekers. The Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program’s food distribution served 167 residents in 45 families.

Find More Peace Through Meditation

Katrina Boverman, a longtime meditation instructor with the SAGE program, and the Mishkan Torah Synagogue Sisterhood have quietly offered Summer Guided Meditation classes for the past 11 years. Although the synagogue itself is a wonderful peaceful setting welcoming to all, meditation will again be offered via Zoom to attend from the comfort of your own home.

Classes via Zoom begin Monday, June 1 from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m., for seven sessions, held every other Monday through August 24. There is no charge; donations are welcome.

For more information email or call Katrinaboverman@yahoo.com or 301-641-1035.



Greenbelt MakerSpace Repair Café

Saturday May 16 from 10 am - noon

Now 3rd Saturdays monthly for 2 hours only

at the Granite Bldg, 115 Centerway

Come learn how to repair your tired or broken stuff (volunteers needed as well). Bring your bikes, clothing, furniture, appliances, computers, jewelry, toys, etc. for the challenge of making them useful again. Repairs are not guaranteed.

Tool Library: Thursdays 6:30 - 8 pm,
Saturdays 10 am - noon, Sundays 11 am – 1 pm
<https://tools.greenbeltmakers.org>



ROOSEVELT DEMOCRATIC CLUB



CANDIDATE FORUM

Featuring Candidates Running for Maryland’s 22nd Legislative District

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026

7:00 PM

 Greenbriar Terrace Room
7600 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD

Meet the Candidates! Come learn about and engage with candidates running for Maryland’s 22nd Legislative District.

[WWW.ROOSEVELTCLUB.COM](https://www.rooseveltclub.com)

CANDIDATES continued from page 1

at-large members running for higher office shortly after filling at-large seats, we also asked candidates if they would commit to serving out the full term if they are elected. They were asked to respond to each question in 150 words or less.

Sean A. Floyd

Sean A. Floyd is the CEO of Nomadic Solutions, LLC, a consulting firm specializing in campaigns, project and operations management, and community engagement. He was previously the National Programs and Outreach Manager for the National Coalition in Black Civic Participation, worked in the office of Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser and worked on political campaigns, including President Obama’s re-election. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Political Science with a minor in Africa/African Diaspora Studies from St. Mary’s College of Maryland.

Why are you running for this particular position and, if elected, would you commit to serving out the entirety of your term as at-large councilmember?

I am running to restore community, transparency and accountability to Prince George’s County. Prince George’s County is a county of opportunity that has been overlooked for far too long. As the deficit grows, property taxes continue to rise, and economic development remains stagnant, I will work to help us return to a place where people want to come to Prince George’s County, not just drive through Prince George’s County. Yes, I commit to serving my entire term as an at-large councilmember.

What do you see as two important issues an at-large council member, specifically, should plan to address?

My number one priority as a councilmember is improving budget transparency. To do this, we must establish mandatory agency oversight hearings before developing our annual operating budget. These hearings will allow us to hold agencies accountable for funding allocated for an operating year and identify areas where funding meant to serve residents was insufficient, excessive or inadequately spent. My second priority is to promote economic development and support small business growth and development. Currently our primary revenue source is property taxes which is imbalanced compared to the revenue generated from business taxes. As a result, homeowners bear the burden of maintaining a healthy budget, making it challenging to live comfortably in an economy where the cost of living continues to rise.

Laura S. Gilchrest

Laura Gilchrest is a lecturer at George Washington University in the Elliot School of International Affairs. She describes herself as a researcher with expertise in qualitative and quantitative research and public policy analysis and advocacy. She received her Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from American University and her M.A. in International Studies from DePaul University and has over ten years of experience teaching undergraduate and graduate students.

Why are you running for this particular position and, if elected, would you commit to serving out the entirety of your term as at-large councilmember?

I’m running for at-large as a publicly financed candidate to ensure the entire county’s needs are represented on the County Council. If elected, I’ll serve the full term as councilmember at-large. I’ll improve transparency and accountability and repair trust and participation within our communities through public processes, community-driven policy and accessible meetings with advance notice and outreach. I’ll tackle loopholes that violate established two-term limits and seat-hopping with appointment reform. I’ll ensure smart growth and community-led development that follows our Climate Action Plan and Countywide Plan 2030. I’ll fund resources and programs like home improvement, rehabilitation and modernizations to improve accessibility for disabled and elderly residents, make neighborhoods safer and more kid/youth/family-friendly, with sidewalks, bike lanes, pedestrian bridges and public restrooms. I’ll introduce land value and vacancy taxes, and corporate tax fairness policies that will improve affordability for residents and provide lasting revenue for the county.

What do you see as two important issues an at-large council member, specifically, should plan to address?

Accountability is a significant issue that all councilmembers need to address. At-large coun-

cilmembers are well-positioned to support accountability measures across districts through countywide outreach, community engagement and support, and a big-picture view of county needs and interests. Another is equity in planning, development and countywide resource distribution. I’ve visited each district and talked to civic associations, knocked on doors and attended forums from Laurel to Clinton. I know which districts need grocery stores and transportation solutions, and which districts need to address overgrowth and congestion. I’ve seen which districts have shiny upgraded facilities and where public schools and park facilities are in disrepair. This is especially important where schools and other public resources like parks and transportation and public works are concerned. All of our communities should receive the attention and resources they need regardless of their district or whether they live in an incorporated or unincorporated municipality.

Jolene Ivey

Jolene Ivey has served on Prince George’s County Council since 2018, when she was elected as councilmember for District 5. She is currently an at-large county councilmember, after winning a special election in 2024. She served as a member of the Maryland House of Del-

egates from 2007 to 2015. She is married to Glenn Ivey, U.S. Representative for Maryland’s 4th congressional district, with whom she has five children including Maryland Delegate Julian Ivey. Ivey earned a bachelor’s degree in mass communication from Towson University and a master’s degree in journalism from the University of Maryland College Park.

Why are you running for this particular position and, if elected, would you commit to serving out the entirety of your term as at-large councilmember?

I am running for the at-large seat because I have over seven years of proven leadership on the County Council (having served over a year as Chair), and I want to use this experience and knowledge to continue to represent the entire county. I know how to make things happen, I understand the issues and the challenges, and I know how to bring needed attention to the issues that should have priority.

I have the proven and demonstrated experience, knowledge, maturity, and temperament to continue to be a progressive champion on the County Council, proudly representing all the residents of Prince George’s.

I am committed to serve the entire term.

What do you see as two important issues an at-large council

member, specifically, should plan to address?

Affordability for struggling families is one of my top priorities, because no one should be priced out of Prince George’s. From young families getting started to seniors on fixed incomes, I’m committed to making sure Prince George’s remains a place where everyone can afford to stay and thrive. Housing, schools, public safety and economic development are all connected, and their impact on families will always be at the center of my decisions.

Every member of the disability community deserves access to the services they need without leaving the county. I will work to expand needed support. I’m proud to

See CANDIDATES, page 10



PRELIMINARY AGENDA
Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors
on May 21, 2026

GHI Open Meeting – starts at 7:30 p.m. - open to members and visitors

- a) Certification of Election
- b) Board Reorganization and Election of Officers
- c) Formation of Complaints Panels
- d) Select Date for GDC Stockholders Meeting
- e) Approve Minutes of the GHI Closed Meeting Held on April 16, 2026
- f) ARC Exception 6-L Plateau Place, Service Side Kitchen Expansion
- g) Joint Committee Request for Working with GEM COMM
- h) Board Meeting Schedule June through December 2026
- i) 2025 Year-End Financial Statements
- j) 2026 1st Quarter Financial Statements
- k) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on June 11, 2026
- l) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on May 21, 2026

GHI Closed Meeting – starts after GHI Open Meeting - closed to members and visitors

- a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Closed Meeting Held on April 16, 2026
- b) Contract Matters
- c) Member Matters

GDC Open Meeting – starts after GHI Closed Meeting - open to members and visitors

- a) Approve Minutes of the GDC Open Meeting Held on November 7, 2025
- b) Annual Report
- c) Review of 2025 End-of-Year Financial Statements

Members and visitors who wish to attend the Open meetings must register in advance via the following link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtd-uqzoiG9XHGq9rswP_N9LZj33gbi9r
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Nugent & Kash
OF COMPASS

Work with the Best in the DMV!

Andrew and Kim are celebrating a major milestone: Kim was honored as the *Top Solo Agent by Units at the Compass DMV Awards!*

If you are considering a purchase, this is your time! Prices and rates are both stabilizing – while rent continues to rise. *Let us help you to find your home.*

Kim Kash & Andrew Nugent
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m: 301.789.6294
andrew.nugent@compass.com
m: (301) 814-8010

660 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Suite 401 Washington DC 20003 | O: 202.545.6900

Nugent & Kash named the 2026 Face of Prince George's County Real Estate by Washingtonian Magazine.



COMPASS 

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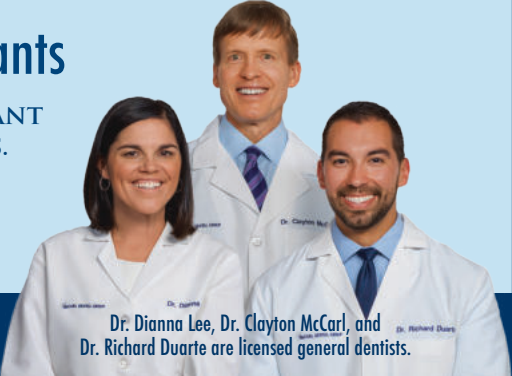
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School News

Setbacks and Some Cheers: ERHS Reacts to Canvas Outage

by Sadie Young and Journalism I and II students

In a massive breach affecting more than 30 million students, the infamous cyberterrorist collective ShinyHunters seized control of the Canvas instructional platform on May 7, allegedly compromising the personal data of 275 million individuals across 9,000 schools. Canvas is the learning management system used by Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS), including Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS).

As a result of the breach, ERHS reported significant, though temporary, interruptions to coursework and testing. By exploiting a vulnerability in parent company Instructure’s Free-For-Teacher accounts, the U.S.- and U.K.-based hacking group forced major institutions, including Penn State and the University of Illinois, to cancel exams and deadlines. This marks the second time in months that the group has caused widespread academic shock across American higher education (ShinyHunters also claimed responsibility for a May 1 breach of Canvas.)

Impact on Students

On the evening of May 7, students across PGCPS opened Canvas to a daunting message from hacking group ShinyHunters and blocked access. It was a bit of a setback for most. Student Favor Ijomor claims he was attempting an “academic comeback,” at the time and he hoped it would be fixed soon because he had “work to do.” It was also a setback for students like Stanley Eissie, a senior, because “[she] couldn’t study for [her] test” due to resources being on Canvas. In addition, an anonymous junior states that he “couldn’t turn in [my] 101-point chem lab that was already a day late,” and still has yet to turn it in.

Many students found it strange to say the least. One student commented, “It was surprising and unexpected. I’m really curious about how they solved the issue. Did they pay? Or just got the hackers away?” However, it seems there was an even split between overjoyed and relieved students, worried students and students who didn’t see it as a big deal. Freshman Gabrielle Cherry said that she saw the news of the hack on Tiktok and exclaimed, “No homework!” Stu-



Message displayed when students tried to access Canvas last week

dent Donnie Hepler said that he “needed this to happen; because of this, [his] test got pushed back,” alongside junior Subusola D. claiming she was “relieved” to get a break from work, building upon a trend of positive feedback.

Impact on Teachers

The nationwide hack on Canvas not only affected students, but teachers as well. “It was a major inconvenience,” Dr. Laurent Rigal, physics and research practicum (RP) teacher at ERHS said. “Students weren’t able to access review material so I had to push the [physics] test to Monday.” Additionally, senior grades were due on Friday and he wasn’t able to grade RP papers. Allison Beers, an English teacher, said, “It was an inconvenience, but we will manage.”

Monique Connealy, an art teacher at ERHS, shares a similar sentiment, saying that this incident “came at a pretty bad time because [they are] trying to put senior grades in.” She expressed her concerns for improving technology as, “Security gets better and better, but there’s always somebody that’s going to break

through and you just have to keep getting better at defending it.” Jeffrey Holmes, another art teacher at ERHS, said, “I think Canvas can somehow implement [two-factor authentication]. It’s way too easy to get in Canvas. Years prior, there’s been situations where people in the building or outside can have access to [things] like grades and Canvas.”

While ERHS was one of the thousands of schools affected in its ability to perform testing and classwork, sensitive information such as passwords and student birth dates were not compromised, as PGCPS does not save such information on the Canvas website. Thankfully, all the students of PGCPS had their virtual programs restored on the early morning of May 8. Even as access has been restored, questions still remain about the likelihood of such a hack being repeated, or the chances of ShinyHunters simply revealing the stolen information anyway.

Journalism I and II students at Eleanor Roosevelt High School wrote this article for the Greenbelt News Review.

ERHS MESA Students Are State Engineering Challenge Champions

Eleanor Roosevelt High School Math, Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) students Samson Asmelash, Eric Godsey, Rahel Kabba and Nicolas Rivero have won first place in the state for the National Engineering Design Competition at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL). They will now go on to the national competition on June 22.

Maryland MESA is an after-school program for students in grades 3 through 12 designed to spark their interest in STEM education and STEM careers.

Hosted by APL since 1976, when just two schools in Bal-

timore participated, the MESA program now reaches students in eight Maryland school districts. Through project-based team competitions, students experience engineering, computer programming, physics and many more STEM disciplines while developing strong communication and collaboration skills. MESA students are able to see the real-world applications of what they are learning in school, develop the STEM skills they will need in the future and begin to see themselves in STEM careers.

Maryland MESA is administered by APL and joins 10 other MESA USA programs in serving over 49,000 students annually.



ERHS MESA students pictured from left: Rahel Kabba, Samson Asmelash, Eric Godsey and Nicolas Rivero won first place in the state for the National Engineering Design Competition.



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CANDIDATES continued from page 8

have worked with County Executive Braveboy to open the Prince George’s County Sight & Vision Center, bringing resources to our county. I also founded the PGC Autism Coalition, which brings service providers and resources together to share information and ideas and create a network so they can better serve the residents of the county.

Jeana Jacobs

Jeana Jacobs is an attorney and Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer of the National School Boards Association. She served on the Prince George’s County Board of Education from 2006 to 2016. Jacobs worked for the Prince George’s County Department of Corrections for 23 years, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2012. She earned her bachelor’s degree in behavioral and social sciences from the University of Maryland and a J.D. from the University of the District of Columbia.

Why are you running for this particular position and, if elected, would you commit to serving out the entirety of your term as at-large councilmember?

I bring extensive experience, independent leadership skills, and passion that residents deserve from their elected officials. My 30+ year background in law, public safety and education has prepared me to bring people together, solve problems and advocate for working families. I have broad knowledge overseeing and managing large budgets. In my role as CEO of a national nonprofit organization, I am responsible for

the development and execution of a \$10 million budget. In my previous role as Chair of the Board of Education, in one of the nation’s largest school districts, I led the approval of the then-\$1.8 billion Prince George’s County district budget.

As a parent and working mom, I understand the challenges residents face, such as public safety concerns, rising food and housing costs and the need for stronger economic opportunities.

I commit to serving a full term and focusing on results for residents and businesses.

What do you see as two important issues an at-large council member, specifically, should plan to address?

As an at-large councilmember, I have the opportunity to serve residents across the county and ensure each community has access to opportunities that help residents thrive. The uniqueness of individual community issues, regardless of zip code, must be considered assets rather than problems to solve.

Improving quality of life for residents is paramount. Families deserve safe neighborhoods, affordable housing and reliable county services.

Another issue is expansion of economic opportunities. We need smart development that grows the tax base and reduces financial burden on homeowners. That means attracting businesses that create strong local jobs while protecting our environment.

The county is at an inflection point with tough economic

decisions ahead. To tackle these issues, we need effective leadership. That means no-nonsense approaches to ensuring excellence and accountability in every decision.

I have proven success and broad vision to address these issues.

I respectfully ask for your vote.

Keith Washington

Keith Washington served for 20 years in the U.S. Army and for 17 years as a Prince George’s County Police Officer and Deputy Director for Homeland Security for Prince George’s County. In 2008 Washington was convicted of involuntary manslaughter, first-degree assault, use of a handgun in the commission of a felony, for shooting two delivery men in his home in Accokeek in 2007, killing one and injuring the other. Washington served over 13 years in prison but maintains his innocence. In 2022 he ran for election to the U.S. House to represent Maryland’s 5th Congressional District but lost to Steny Hoyer. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Northwestern State University.

Why are you running for this particular position and, if elected, would you commit to serving out the entirety of your term as at-large councilmember?

I’m running for at-large council member because too many residents - especially seniors and longtime homeowners - feel overlooked by decisions that shape their daily lives. After years of paying into this county, they deserve leadership that listens, respects their contributions, and

protects their future.

We’ve seen a pattern of insider decision-making and missed opportunities to put people first. I’m running to bring independence, transparency and accountability back to county government. My work has always been about standing up to broken systems - and I’ll bring that same determination to this role.

Yes, I will serve my full term. This is not about political ambition - it’s about keeping a promise to the people of Prince George’s County and seeing that promise through.

What do you see as two important issues an at-large council member, specifically, should plan to address?

First, accountability in development. Growth should strengthen communities - not strain them. Too often, decisions have been made without fully considering infrastructure, traffic or the impact on longtime residents. We need leadership that demands transparency and ensures development works for the people who already call this county home.

Second, affordability and stability. Seniors on fixed incomes and working families alike are feeling the pressure of rising costs. We must expand affordable housing, protect homeowners and invest in services that allow people to age with dignity and stay in the communities they helped build.

At-large councilmembers must take a countywide view - and have the courage to stand up for those whose voices are too often ignored.

Noah Emmanuel Waters

Noah Emmanuel Waters is an Emergency Communications Officer at Prince George’s Community College. He is former mayor of the town of Eagle Harbor, Md., and also previously worked as a financial service provider. Waters holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration from Northcentral University, a private, for-profit university that has since become National University. He also holds a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Why are you running for this particular position and, if elected, would you commit to serving out the entirety of your term as at-large councilmember?

Under my administration as Mayor of Eagle Harbor, the town received the largest financial benefits of its nearly one hundred-year history and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, by leading and inspiring the talents of others.

I am a publicly financed candidate, meaning I cannot be controlled by developers. Also, this allows me to honor the will of the people. As mayor, I testified and helped the successful passage of Maryland’s coal ash bill (SB-425) and was one of five who testified to the State of Maryland to adopt Prince George’s County’s heritage designation (CR-038-2025).

I will work with Prince Georgians, the county council, and investors to leverage Prince George’s County’s heritage designation, along with southern

See CANDIDATES, page 12

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Reel and Meal: An Inside Look At Starbucks Union Struggle

by Donna Hoffmeister



PHOTO COURTESY PARTNERS MOVIE

Image from the movie Partners

The film Partners: How Starbucks Baristas Started a Labor Revolution is the Reel and Meal selection for Monday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the New Deal Café. It depicts how Starbucks workers founded their own union, Starbucks Workers United (SBWU), in 2021 in Buffalo, N.Y., while overcoming extensive union-busting. Jaz Brisack, an inside organizer or “salt,” took the job to strengthen union efforts. Retaliation by Starbucks against union organizers in Buffalo started when they sent 100 managers from across the country to act as corporate spies. In all, Starbucks was convicted of breaking federal labor law over 100 times in Buffalo, including firing or relocating union members, promising better pay and benefits only to non-union stores and overstaffing stores before union elections to influence the outcome.

As a result of the Buffalo Starbucks union campaign, individual Starbucks locations are able to hold elections. Because of this

Beech Tree Puppets Shows This Weekend



PHOTO COURTESY INGRID HASS

Puppet show

There will be a free puppet show on Saturday, May 16 at 3 p.m. at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park. Greenbelter Ingrid Hass and her fellow singer and puppeteer, Maggie Polglaze, will present Jack and the Beanstalk.

Join young Jack as he climbs an enormous beanstalk to a castle in the sky. Discover a hen that lays golden eggs, a gilded harp that sings by itself and a giant with a hearty appetite. Don't miss this classic English folktale, brought to life with beautifully hand-crafted puppets and sets, along with heart-warming music.

The performance is suitable for all ages and will last about 40 minutes. Sponsored by College Park Arts Exchange, cpae.org.

The program will also be given on Sunday, May 17 at 1 p.m. at The Christian Community, 4221 Metzerott Road, College Park. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. This show will be outside if weather permits.

“one-store-at-a-time” approach, workers at other small stores began organizing their own campaigns to reach the majority needed to petition the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). This meant there was no need for the support of an entire regional or national workforce. Also, organizers shared real-time information about filing with the NLRB and responding to specific union-busting tactics on social media, such as TikTok, Twitter and Instagram. As of April 2026, there were 691 unionized Starbucks stores in the United States, primarily represented by Starbucks Workers United and covering approximately 14,980 workers.

The film’s start time of 6:30 p.m. is earlier than usual. The Labor Heritage Foundation of Washington, D.C. sponsors the film as part of its annual May DC Labor FilmFest. A panel of local Starbucks union organizers will share their experiences following the film.

Reel and Meal is a monthly film series focused on environmental, social justice and animal rights issues. While the film is free, the Café has a full dinner menu for purchase including several plant-based options. The screenings are hybrid: in-person at the Café and via Zoom. Those unable to attend in-person can register to watch via Zoom at tinyurl.com/ReelMeal2026.

Youth Service Hours

The Greenbelt Rotary Club is hosting a Greenbelt Garden Tour on Saturday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with ticket purchases funding the club’s community service activities. The club is offering service hours to young people for checking tickets at gardens. Each youth will be assigned to one garden, or several GHI gardens next door to each other. Responsibilities include confirming attendee tickets and giving the ticket purchase QR code to attendees needing tickets. Training will be provided. The gardens are in Greenbelt East, Center and West. Rain date: If there is light rain, the tour will proceed. If there is heavy rain, the tour will be Sunday, June 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sign up at tinyurl.com/4nvwktv5. For more information about the tour and Greenbelt Rotary community service activities, visit tinyurl.com/ucyf2n7a or the club website at greenbeltrotary.org, or email rotarygreenbelt@gmail.com.

A Treasure Chest of Gardens On Greenbelt Garden Tour

by Erica Johns

The Greenbelt Garden Tour on Saturday, June 6 offers the opportunity to visit 12 gardens, some rarely seen, and talk with their gardeners. Whether you already love gardening, are curious to try it or are intimidated by getting started, you will find something to enjoy and learn from the tour’s gardens and gardeners.

Visit the Gardens

A treasure chest of a garden can be found hidden behind a fence in Greenbelt East, begun 32 years ago and today containing vegetables and flowers in multiple “rooms.” The gardener is delighted with how well her winter sowing did this year.

A Hamilton Place community garden plot gardener began gardening just three years ago and now grows food year-round. She will share how she “learned from zero” and how she protects her produce from wildlife.

A Gardenway community gardener grows leafy greens, tomatoes, peppers, squash, okra, watermelon, cucumbers, eggplants and sweet potatoes in raised beds and new vertical growing space. She values learning from other community gardeners.

Another Gardenway gardener says his garden is a playground where he experiments to learn what works. He built a pond to manage flooding, which created a micro ecosystem now inhabited by leopard frogs.

A GHI home gardener finds gardening to be a spiritual journey, as well as scientific, physical, practical and emotional. Her garden contains food, flowers and trees. Can you spot the Big Bang in her garden? She and her neighboring gardener are adjusting to new sunlight patterns after a large tree came down in 2025.

A nearby GHI gardener sees home gardens as an art form. In her garden you will find “a plant tapestry that is interesting to look at and with interesting plants that also appear in the natural world.”

Fundraiser

The Greenbelt Rotary Club is hosting the tour as a fundraiser for its community service activities. Those activities include supporting the Greenbelt Outstanding Citizen Award and Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival; operating its Driver Education Program; supporting Springhill Lake and Greenbelt Elementary School students and families, as well as youth leadership growth opportunities; and funding prizes for the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee’s Black History Month essay contest at Greenbelt Middle School. Read about those activities and purchase tickets at <https://tinyurl.com/ucyf2n7a>. Advance price tickets are on sale until 5 p.m. Friday, June 5.



This GHI garden's owner picked and ate lettuce and radishes from her garden the day this photo was taken in April.



This GHI gardener is in her second year in this garden.

- Photos by Erica Johns



This community gardener grows leafy greens in raised beds in the spring. She adds two raised beds each year, as a gift to herself.



Scan this to purchase tickets or learn about the Rotary Club.



Greenbelt Garden Tour

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12 food and ornamental gardens
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CANDIDATES continued from page 10

Prince George’s County’s designation as part of the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, to bring immediate jobs and revenue to Prince George’s County.

What do you see as two important issues an at-large council member, specifically, should plan to address?

As a former mayor looking through the lens of an experienced elected official, two important issues facing an at-large councilmember are jobs and revenue for Prince George’s County. All the wish list items such as enhanced funding for schools, public safety, medical care, child and adult services and road maintenance, etc., require funding sources such as jobs and robust sources of revenue.

The challenge is to have talented and skilled at-large councilmembers who will move away from the practice of raising property taxes to fund county services and balancing the budget.

The push for data centers

by the incumbents running for county council at-large, to me, exemplifies the lack of ingenuity and leadership, considering the negative environmental, health and economic impacts associated with large data centers. At-large members need to bring alternatives to creating jobs and revenue.

Sydney Harrison

Sydney Harrison has served as county councilmember for District 9 for eight years. He is prevented from running again for that seat in this election by term limits. Harrison was previously elected to serve as the Clerk of the Circuit Court and as District 27 at-large representative for the Democratic Central Committee. He was also a real estate professional, small business owner and plumber.

Harrison did not respond to email or voicemail from the News Review.

Jennifer Rios

Jennifer Rios served in the U.S. Army for 13 years, earning the rank of Staff Sergeant. Rios

reports she owns three small businesses. She currently serves on Governor Wes Moore’s Commission on Hispanic Affairs Committee and is president and founder of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Prince George’s County. Rios also serves on the Latino Advisory Board for County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks. She was crowned Ms. International World Petite/Mexico 2024, a specialized title within the Ms. World International Pageant system.

Rios holds a doctorate in Business Administration from Capella University, a private, for-profit online university. She also holds a Master of Business Administration in Digital Entrepreneurship from Strayer University, an online, for-profit institution.

Rios did not respond to our emails and has no phone number or contact form available on her website nor phone number in the county candidate listings. In addition to email, we attempted to reach her by Facebook message.

Farmers Market Seeks Board Members, Market Volunteers

by Rosie Weaver

“If you are fond of gourds, join the Farmers Market board.” Astute readers may recall seeing a Valentine’s message with this sentiment in the February 12, 2026, issue of the Greenbelt News Review. The Greenbelt Farmers Market (GFM) is certainly well loved, and the local bounty available there is always worthy of poetry. But while it may seem like this abundance appears spontaneously each week in the parking lot behind the Municipal Building, many individual efforts are required to sustain it. Vendors, staff, volunteers and board collaborate to make it happen.

The Farmers Market board is currently seeking additional people to help cultivate future seasons of this community asset. Volunteers are key to the market operation. Set-up and break-down of the information booth are completed by dedicated teams of volunteers. They answer questions and help shoppers use the matching programs for SNAP and WIC. Spanish-speaking volunteers are always especially needed. Stop by the information booth for more information on volunteering.

Board members oversee the finances, communications and much more. The ideal board member will be able to commit to monthly meetings and take a turn as assistant market manager one week out of every six. The

assistant market manager answers emails and is available to fill in for volunteers or staff at the market on Sunday if needed. Basic computer skills are required, along with an enthusiasm for vegetables.

GFM began in 2008 with a board of five members: Kim Kash, Cary Coppock, Joe Gareri, Kim Rush Lynch and Lynne Tucker Chandler. Their tireless work to clear mountains of paperwork led to the establishment of the weekly market. Today, the market serves 1,700 patrons each week, supporting 30 vendors. Through grants and state and local programs, the market is able to provide matching programs to people in need, helping to make fresh food accessible to all.

Founding member Kash says, “Doing all the administrative legwork at the beginning was not nearly as fun as being at the market on Sunday mornings in those first couple of years, enjoying the camaraderie and watching a new Greenbelt institution take root. The volunteer work needed now is easy and fun, and the more people who pitch in, the lighter the load.”

If you’d like to help out, email board@greenbeltfarmersmarket.org. In the words of their Valentine’s message, “There will be fruit and flowers/ If you’ll give us a few hours. Love bread fresh from the oven? Come and help us govern!”

SEATS continued from page 1

at-large seats from district seats and both ran for a different, higher position, within weeks of winning them.

Last month, District 1 Councilmember Tom Dernoga introduced a bill to eliminate the seats. Dernoga and opponents of the at-large seats argue they benefit well-funded candidates who use them as stepping stones to higher office and/or to circumvent term limits.

History of At-Large County Councilmembers

2018

Two at-large county council seats were created following a ballot measure in 2016.

2018 - 2024: Mel Franklin

Franklin served six years and resigned ahead of felony charges during his second term. Prior to that he served two terms as councilmember for District 5.

2018 - 2025:

Calvin S. Hawkins II

Hawkins served for seven years as at-large councilmember. He resigned in December 2025 to take a job in the Office of the County Executive as an assistant deputy chief administrative officer for economic development. He is the only at-large councilmember to not move to the seat from another position on council as a district representative.

2024 - Current: Jolene Ivey

Ivey was serving her second term for District 5 when Franklin stepped down from one of the at-large seats ahead of charges of embezzlement, felony theft scheme and perjury. Ivey won the at-large seat in a special election

on November 5, 2024. In early December she was sworn in and, around the same time, announced she was running for County Executive. Though she was a front-runner in the County Executive race, she unexpectedly withdrew her candidacy shortly before the election, citing health reasons, and has subsequently been serving the rest of the term in her new at-large position. She is seeking re-election to the at-large seat this November.

December 2025 - Current:

Wala Blegay

Blegay was elected to Prince George’s County Council in November 2022 to represent District 6. In December 2025, Hawkins resigned from his at-large county council seat in order to take the position of Assistant Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Economic Development in the

office of County Executive. Following a brief nomination period Blegay was appointed by her fellow councilmembers to the at-large seat on December 29, 2025, one week after Hawkins’ resignation. Just over a month later, on February 4, Blegay announced she was running for Congress to represent Maryland’s 5th District. She will serve less than a year as an at-large member.

There are eight candidates for the two at-large Prince George’s County Council seats this year (see article on page 1). All are Democrats. If the at-large seats were to be eliminated, that would take effect after those who win this year have served the four-year term they are elected to.



Water lilies flower at Greenbelt Lake on Wednesday, May 6, near the overflow drainage area.



PHOTO BY FRED KIBLER



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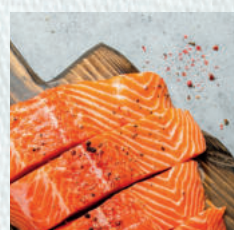
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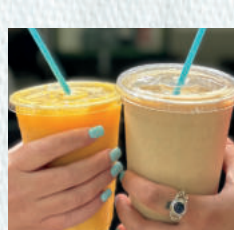
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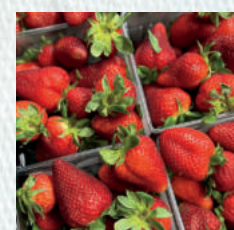
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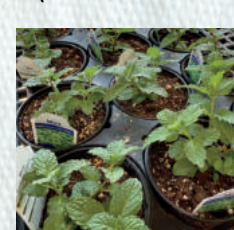


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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred May 4-10, 2026. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported two mental health diversions and three domestic incidents, two leading to arrest. One adult son did not return home after prom.

On May 7 at 9:38 p.m. near Greenbelt Road and Walker Drive, two vehicles crashed, and the occupants from one vehicle were taken to the hospital.

Fights

On May 5 at 4:09 p.m. near 5500 Cherrywood Lane, two men were fighting, possibly over an illegal transaction. One man was caught and had an outstanding warrant for burglary; he also had a crack pipe and other items used to facilitate drug use. He was arrested and taken to Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

On May 8 at 5:47 p.m. near 5910 Greenbelt Road, after an altercation between father and son one was detained due to the level of agitation.

DUI Arrest

On May 10 at 10:01 p.m. near 1 Westway, a vehicle crashed into a large rock. Officers found the driver impaired with a realistic BB gun on the front passenger seat. The driver refused sobriety testing and was arrested for DUI and illegal carrying of the BB gun. His car also matched a nearby hit-and-run.

Fraud

On May 4 near 7703 Belle Point Drive, a former employee submitted fraudulent time sheets resulting in being overpaid. Warrants will be obtained.

On May 6 near 22 Hillside Road, a contractor was paid a substantial deposit to perform some construction work then stopped responding to calls.

On May 9 near 6198 Greenbelt Road, a man was wanted by the Pennsylvania State Police for a fraudulent credit card charge; he was identified, arrested and taken to the Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

On May 10 near 6500 Capitol Drive, a person trying to purchase a 2025 Toyota was flagged as providing fraudulent information.

Extortion/Blackmail

On May 6 near 9106 Edmonston Court, someone threatened to post a video of a man, and he sent them money. He was advised of options.

Theft and Shoplifting

On May 4 at 8:09 a.m. near 5910 Greenbelt Road, someone stole merchandise; at 9:27 a.m. near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, someone stole a package from in front of an apartment; at 11:02 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road,

a man was arrested after he stole merchandise.

On May 5 at 11:15 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man concealed merchandise in his bag and left the store; loss prevention staff recovered the merchandise, released him and requested the incident documented.

On May 6 at 7:07 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman was caught shoplifting and banned; at 6:36 a.m. near 6101 Breezewood Court, a known person took property from a residence.

On May 7 at 6:40 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, two people stole a mattress and left the mall. They were quickly found and banned.

On May 8 at 3:48 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, two women grabbed several items and left in a black vehicle bearing Maryland temporary tags.

On May 9 at 10:40 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, two women were stopped by loss prevention staff for shoplifting; at 12:14 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a boy was stopped for shoplifting and banned; his mother was contacted.

On May 10 at 2:40 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a boy stole merchandise and left the store. Loss prevention staff took him into custody and notified police. His mother was notified, and he was banned. The business declined to prosecute.

Trespassing

On May 4 at 7:13 p.m. near 6101 Cherrywood Lane, a man near the recreation center was arrested for an outstanding trespassing warrant.

On May 5 at 1:38 a.m. near 5807 Cherrywood Terrace, a woman would not leave after being told to leave several times by officers, and was arrested for trespassing. She also had an open warrant through Prince George's Sheriff's Department and was taken to the Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles

Five vehicles were stolen: on May 5 near 9116 Edmonston Court, a white 2015 Nissan Pathfinder (Md. 8GL0240); on May 7, near 133 Westway, a white Ram tow truck, and near 9142 Edmonston Court, a blue Hon-

da Civic; on May 8, near 8000 Greenbelt Station Parkway, a black Jeep Grand Cherokee; and near 8020 Greenbelt Station Parkway, a 2024 Honda Accord (Md. 7FA9890).

Stolen Vehicle Recovered

On May 9 near 7 Southway, a Dodge 1500 with window and steering column damage was abandoned at the baseball field; it was reported stolen from Riverdale.

Attempted Theft of Auto

On May 6 near 9102 Edmonston Court, someone broke a window and damaged the ignition trying to steal a 2015 Hyundai Sonata.

On May 7 near 6440 Cherrywood Lane, a 2021 Honda Accord had the door locks punched in and the key fob would not work; near 22 Ridge Road, a 2004 Ford F150 was broken into and the ignition was tampered with.

Theft from Auto

On May 6 at 4:44 a.m. near 118 Northway, thieves with a black sedan were seen stealing the catalytic converter from a Toyota Prius and fled when police arrived. Eight more catalytic converters were stolen: near 71 Ridge Road from a Prius; near 1 Research Road from a 1999 Honda Accord; near 101 Ridge Road from a 2005 Honda Element; near 105 Northway from a 2014 Prius; near 139 Northway from a 2013 Prius; near 9 Research Road; near 1 Research Road; and on May 9 near 9 Greendale Place from a Prius.

On May 4 near 7810 Hanover Parkway, a work vehicle was broken into and items were stolen.

On May 5 near 9160 Edmonston Road, tags were stolen (Va. TCB7703).

On May 6 near 6400 Ivy Lane, rims were stolen from a rental vehicle.

On May 8 near 7923 Mandan Road, a rear tag was stolen (Md. 2FH1984).

Vandalism to Auto

On May 7 near 6150 Springhill Terrace, a 2023 Dodge Durango had the sunroof smashed.

On May 10 near 11 Laurel Hill Road, someone slashed a tire on a 2019 Toyota Corolla.

Shots Fired on Ridge Road; No Injuries or Victims Reported

At approximately 8:06 p.m. on Saturday, May 9, multiple residents heard the sound of gunshots fired in the area of 23 Court Ridge Road. Witnesses reported seeing two suspects fleeing on foot toward Roosevelt Center and the parking lot there. Police recovered approximately five bullet casings at the scene.

At this time, no victims have been identified and no arrests have been made. The incident is being treated as a no-contact shooting.

Anyone with information related to this incident is urged to contact the Greenbelt Police Department at 301-474-7200.

OFFICER continued from page 1

in the community. "I've been here since I was like 5 or 6," he said. "I kind of have deep roots in the community."

Roberson originally wanted to work for the National Security Agency. The death of his high school friend Adrian Morris, a former Prince George's County Police Officer, broadened his horizon of career choices. "It opened up a new career path. And then luckily, I got the call to work here, and I've been here ever since."

That familiarity shapes how he approaches policing. Whether attending school events, walking through neighborhoods or interacting with residents, Roberson often encounters people he has known for years. "I still run into people ... people I went to Roosevelt with," he said. "You know, run into old teachers when I do events at Roosevelt." Those relationships, he said, are central to building trust and maintaining public safety.

The department's emphasis on training has also contributed to the unit's success. Officers are regularly sent to specialized courses, including Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) training and instruction in digital investigations and crisis response, allowing them to adapt to evolving crime trends. "We see a need for something, and then we send somebody out to train for that," Roberson said.

Outside of work, Roberson remains closely tied to the city. He spends his free time lifting weights, biking and walking through Greenbelt's parks. "I like the foliage and the trees," he said. "I like it, I like this area."

The Unit Citation recognizes a period of intense investigative work, but for Roberson, it also reflects something more enduring, a commitment to protecting the place that shaped him. "You talk about wanting to make a change ... I'm legitimately doing that," he said.

In the future, Roberson plans to retire from the Greenbelt Police Department and stay with his community. "I would love to retire here," he said. "I have deep roots here. I like the great energy we have, the diversity that's changed, and this place has become incredibly diverse since I've been here."

Laura Charleston is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning at the Greenbelt News Review.



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GREENBELT'S NURSERY SCHOOL'S YARD SALE – on the Community Center Lawn, Saturday, May 23 from 8 am to noon. Great buys on clothing, toys and household items. Donations of items welcome at the school on Friday May 22 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.



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Sports

Little League in Greenbelt Is 75 and Going Strong

by Ben Friedman



PHOTO BY FIONA LEWIS

The Greenbelt Cubs (Juniors) host the Laurel Outlaws at Braden 1 under the lights in the newly renovated Braden Baseball Complex.

This spring, Greenbelt Little League celebrates its 75th year of bringing baseball to the youth of Greenbelt and Prince George’s County, providing a fun and competitive pastime for children of all ages.

However, in 2018 that legacy nearly fell apart. To turn things around, the board voted to join Little League International for the Spring 2019 season. This move proved to be a boon for the League, as it provided much needed structure, a broader base of competition and access to a deeper community for youth baseball.

This year marks a new milestone for the league as the City of Greenbelt has invested more than \$1 million in upgrades to the Braden Baseball Complex.

These include LED lights, grading and improved turfgrass, and new fencing and dugouts, with more upgrades to be completed in the coming years.

Greenbelt Little League – geographically bounded by Beltsville to the north, Glenn Dale to the east, Bladensburg and the Washington, D.C. line to the south and Langley Park to the west – plays against teams in the district that includes Laurel, Arbutus, South Baltimore and Annapolis. The organization is entirely volunteer run, with board members from Greenbelt, University Park, Cheverly, Hyattsville and Adelphi and coaches and families from throughout the local area. For more information about Greenbelt Little League, visit the website at gyblittleleague.org.



PHOTO BY KATRINA SEIBERT

Coach Sarah LaRosa holds a pre-game meeting with the Machine Pitch Orioles.



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Recent Games: May 5 – May 13, 2026 (Kid-pitch only)

Division: Minors	Home	Away	Location	Result
Sat., May 9	Space Cowboys	Yankees	McDonald	Cowboys 11-10
Sat., May 9	Orioles	Tides	McDonald	Orioles 17-6
Tue., May 12	Tides	Space Cowboys	McDonald	**SNA
Division: Majors	Home	Away	Location	
Wed., May 6	Greenbelt Rangers	Laurel Yankees	McDonald	Rangers 4-1
Sat., May 9	Greenbelt Bulls	Annapolis Blue Claws	Braden 2	Blue Claws 15-9
Division: Intermediate	Home	Away	Location	
Sat., May 9	Yard Goats	Laurel Phillies	Braden 2	Yard Goats 17-15
Wed., May 6	Seeds	Laurel Phillies	Braden 2	Seeds 15-12
Sat., May 9	Seeds	Goldeyes	Braden 2	Rescheduled
Mon., May 11	Phillies	Goldeyes	Turney	Goldeyes 20-15
Division: Juniors	Home	Away	Location	
Fri., May 8	Laurel Urena	Greenbelt Cubs	Laurel	Cubs 10-1
Mon., May 11	Arbutus Young	Greenbelt Cubs	Arbutus	Cubs 11-7

** SNA – Score not available at time of printing
All teams are Greenbelt unless otherwise noted



PHOTO BY RICHARD WILLIAMSON

Silas D’Innocenzo fields a ball at 1st base.

WRESTLING continued from page 1

all of Prince George’s County. Notably he has done so at two different weights, last year at 106 pounds and this season at 113 pounds. This would also mark Hayes’ third straight year in the finals after placing second his freshman year.

The final road for Foreman had a much more dramatic atmosphere surrounding it. State was a do-or-die environment, “I just had to remind myself this was my last year and how hard I’ve worked,” recalled Foreman. Despite the pressure, he was able to secure his finals spot against Frederick Douglass High School’s Victor Guerra. A fittingly dramatic finish would take Guerra into overtime and Foreman would come out victorious with a last-minute takedown. “It was honestly just a feeling of relief” were the words Foreman chose to describe the initial flood of emotions, adding that “it showed me that

if I do the work, I can do really special things.”

The two Raiders hope to continue wrestling, with Hayes planning to add another medal his senior year and Foreman hoping to transition into Brazilian jiu-jitsu going into college.

Osmel Sosa Chavez is an ERHS student and staff writer for the Raider Review, where this article first appeared. He is also a member of the wrestling team.

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Arts & Entertainment

Artful Afternoon at SLRC

At the Springhill Lake Recreation Center (SLRC) on Sunday, May 10, the Artful Afternoon included an arts activity, an Eleanor Roosevelt High School Dance Program performance and an Arts Mixer. Artful Afternoons are held at the Rec Center every second

Sunday of the month. The next one will be Tie-dye Pride with Vanessa Zanin on June 14 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Artful Afternoons are free and for all ages and ability levels, paid for by Maryland State Arts Council operating grant funds.



Local artist Barbara Joann Coombs leads a woven paper art activity.



- Photos by Amanda Larsen



Dancers from the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Dance Program, under the direction of their teacher Angel Chinn, perform in the backyard of the Springhill Lake Recreation Center.



Green Man Festival 2026

The annual Green Man Festival took place in Roosevelt Center on May 9 and 10, sponsored by CHEARS, the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society. There were many activities, including live music, craft projects, storytelling, composting demonstrations and strolling entertainers.



Witch Dance performers in front of the Mother and Child statue

- Photos by Bonnie Schrack



A Green Man at the Green Man Festival



Dan Gillotte leads the Honk! Situation band at the Green Man Festival.



Happy revelers at the Greenbelt Green Man Festival dance to the music mid-afternoon on Sunday, May 10.